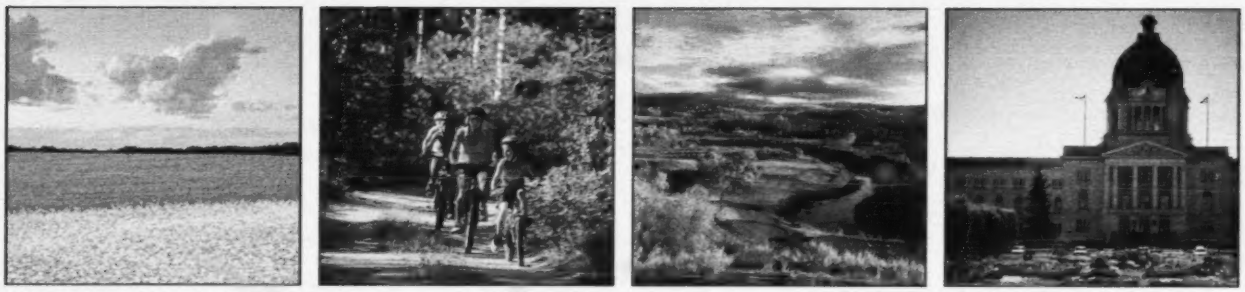
Water Security Agency



Plan for 2017-18

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Scott Moe

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

I am pleased to present the Water Security Agency's Plan for 2017-18.

Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

The *25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan* sets out the Government's agenda to ensure water supplies will support economic growth, quality of life, and environmental well-being, now and into the future. Since this plan's release in 2012, the Water Security Agency has made significant progress implementing it and will continue to focus on delivering on the goals established in the plan and providing exceptional service to citizens.

In 2016-17, the Water Security Agency began implementation of the new Agricultural Water Management Strategy with a pilot project in southeast Saskatchewan. This pilot project led to an historic drainage approval that created a responsibly managed drainage network for more than 18,000 acres, with the support of 73 landowners. In 2017-18 the Water Security Agency will work with hundreds of other landowners on 12 additional organized drainage projects totaling more than 160,000 acres. In 2016-17, the Agency also established an office in Wadena to work closely with producers in the Quill Lakes areas to identify options for drainage, and will continue to work towards bringing all drainage works in the priority areas into compliance and ensuring any new drainage is approved.

In 2017-18, the Water Security Agency will invest $14.1 million as part of a nine year, $100 million project to rehabilitate the M1 Canal. When complete, this project will increase water delivery by 52 per cent, supplying five towns, six reservoirs, three potash mines, four water pipelines and 13 wetlands.

Infrastructure renewal continues to be a major focus in 2017-18. The Water Security Agency will invest $14.6 million in several water management structures across the province to ensure dam safety, reliability and capacity to deliver water supplies supporting Saskatchewan's growth. That investment includes an ongoing major project ($700,000 this year) to increase water conveyance from Lake Diefenbaker to Buffalo Pound Lake, a key water source for this area of Saskatchewan. By restoring and stabilizing the Upper Qu'Appelle Channel water transmission will increase by over 200 percent (from less than three cubic metres per second to more than ten). Buffalo Pound Lake provides water for Moose Jaw, Regina, area industry, and supplements water to the lakes of the Qu'Appelle Valley.

The federal government transferred ownership and maintenance of 20 dams to the Water Security Agency in 2016-17. The Water Security Agency is now responsible for 69 dams, including six major dams: Gardiner, Qu'Appelle River, Rafferty, Alameda Dams, Duncairn and Lafleche.

With a growing population our government is ensuring the safety of drinking water supplies that are critical to protecting public health. The Water Security Agency will continue to promote and ensure safe drinking water for Saskatchewan residents through inspections, monitoring, reporting, education and compliance for all regulated works in Saskatchewan.

The Water Security Agency will report on plan achievements, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2017-18 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

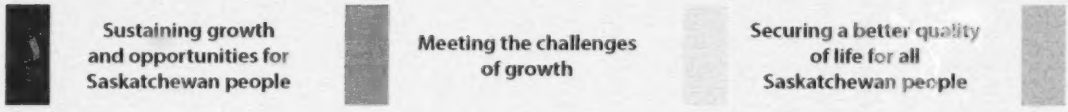
Mandate Statement

The Water Security Agency is responsible for managing the water supply, protecting water quality, ensuring safe drinking water, managing dams and water supply channels, reducing flood and drought damage and providing information on water. The Agency works to integrate all aspects of provincial water management to ensure water supplies support economic growth, quality of life and environmental well-being.

Mission Statement

We strive to provide exceptional service and ensure that water management supports growth, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

Government Goals


Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priorities relate to the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* vision of "Building the Infrastructure for Growth", "Growth with Purpose: Building a Better Quality of Life for Saskatchewan People", and "Advancing Saskatchewan's Natural Resource and Agricultural Advantage".

Ministry Goal

Beneficial Water Management - The Water Security Agency manages water resources to benefit the people of Saskatchewan. This means:

- drinking water is safe;
- benefits from water and water management are realized;
- risks to water availability, water quality and habitat are mitigated; and
- dam safety, flooding and hydrological drought risks are mitigated.

Strategy

Enhance water supply to growth areas.

Key Actions

- Continue rehabilitation of the M1 Canal to improve water supplies for drinking water, irrigation, parks, wetlands, and industry (Target completion date: 2021)

Strategy

Lead a cross-government renewal of the provincial drinking water strategy

Key Actions

- Deliver regulatory programming to ensure safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment
- Work with Ministry of Government Relations to develop more cost effective approaches for renewal and enhancement of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure

Strategy

Address critical water quality and habitat risks

Key Actions

- Develop scientific knowledge to address water quality and habitat risks for Lake Diefenbaker and Buffalo Pound Lake

Strategy

Complete critical operation plans and project manuals for WSA dams

Key Actions

- Complete reservoir operation plans and project manuals for Gardiner, Rafferty and Alameda dams
- Complete reservoir operating plans for Lac LaRonge and Candle Lake

Strategy

Plan transition of transferred federal dams

Key Actions

- Assess requirements to transition the operation and management of the transferred federal dams

Strategy

Conduct priority rehabilitation work on WSA dams

Key Actions

- Complete upgrades on Crooked Lake, Alameda, Rafferty, and Buffalo Pound dams and continue renewal work on other WSA dams as per the Ten Year Rolling Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan

Strategy

Address priority drought and flood damage mitigation needs

Key Actions

- Work with Ministry of Agriculture to develop a hydrological drought preparedness plan
- Continue working with stakeholders to reduce flood damages Quill Lakes, Lenore Lake and Little Manitou LakeStrategy

Strategy

Implement the new approach to drainage

Key Actions

- Finalize a policy on drainage
- Define process to determine adequate outlets for drainage approvals

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	**Delivering responsive and responsible government**

Strategic priorities relate to the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan goals of "Adequate Data, Information and Knowledge" and "Effective Governance and Engagement."

Ministry Goal

People and process excellence - The Water Security Agency strives to achieve excellence in everything it does. This means:

- Citizens understand and endorse our actions;
- Citizens are satisfied with our service; and
- We seek to continuously improve our results.

Strategy

Build critical water management partnerships

Key Actions

- Negotiate an amendment to the Prairie Provinces Water Board Master Agreement on Apportionment to improve transboundary aquifer management
- Support the Souris Basin study with the International Joint Commission, Canada, Manitoba, the United States and North Dakota

Performance Measures

Length of M1 Canal Rehabilitated

This 22.5 km canal supplies water from Lake Diefenbaker to Broderick Reservoir near Outlook and supports 55,000 acres of irrigation, six reservoirs, town and villages, three potash mines, 13 wetland projects and Blackstrap Provincial Park. Rehabilitation of the entire canal is planned to be complete in 2021.

Number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters

A decreasing number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters are a direct indication of a reduction in the potential for source water contamination due to poor wastewater treatment.

Drinking water quality standards compliance

This measure indicates average compliance with disinfection and bacteriological standards. High compliance rates are a good indication of drinking water safety.

Risk associated with WSA dams and number of WSA dams requiring upgrades

The 10-Year Water Management Infrastructure Renewal Plan is intended to decrease these measures. The first indicates the overall risk associated with WSA dam infrastructure while the second quantifies the number of Water Security Agency dams requiring upgrades to meet the provisions of the Dam Safety Guidelines (2007) published by the Canadian Dam Association.

Number of drainage approvals issued

This measure is an indicator of progress in implementing the new approach to drainage. An approval allows for a network of drainage works to operate with impact mitigation measures and practices in place. As the new approach to drainage matures, an increasing number of approvals will be issued.

Highlights

The Water Security Agency plans for expenditures of $55,047,000 during 2017-18. This budget allows the Water Security Agency to move forward with implementation of the *25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan* which supports the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

Budget Highlights include:

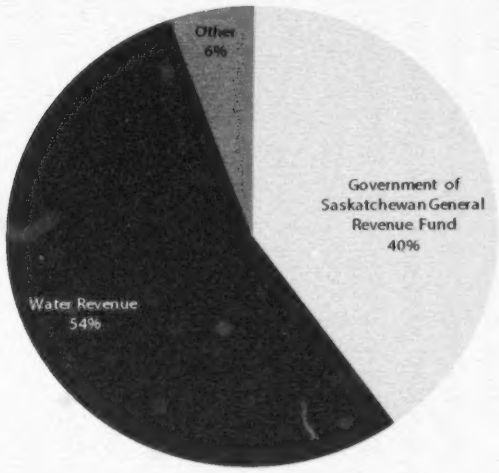
- Continued delivery of the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program to help individuals and communities take measures to prevent flood damage;
- Elimination of the grants for maintenance of water infrastructure owned by Conservation and Development Area Authorities and redirected funding for creation of new Conservation and Development Area Authorities or Watershed Associations and engineering costs associated with new water infrastructure required for flood prevention;
- Implementation of the new Agricultural Water Management Strategy to control and organize agricultural water movement in the province;
- Operation and maintenance of 20 additional dams transferred from the Federal Government; and
- The Water Security Agency will direct $28.657 million from its cash reserves to the rehabilitation of water management structures, including $14.1 million in rehabilitation and expansion of the M1 canal to ensure continued delivery of water for irrigation, industry, communities and recreation.

Financial Summary

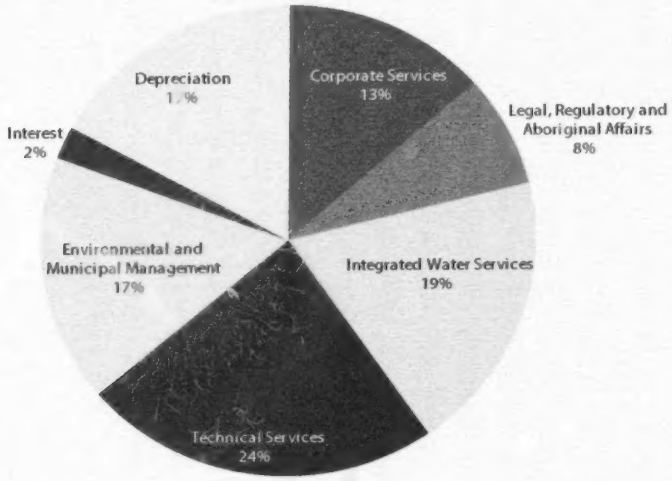
2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Appropriation	**17,660**
FTE Staff Complement	**229.6**
Revenue:	
Government of Saskatchewan General Revenue Fund	17,660
Water Revenue	24,000
Other	2,433
Total Revenue	**44,093**
Expenses:	
Corporate Services	**7,093**
Legal, Regulatory and Aboriginal Affairs	**4,427**
Legal, Lands Administration and Aboriginal Affairs	2,827
Water Use and Licensing	1,006
Special Projects – Drainage Initiative	594
Integrated Water Services	**10,591**
Integrated Water Services Administration	749
Quill Lakes Agricultural Water Management	1,000
Regional Services	5,477
Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program	2,000
Watershed Services	1,365
Technical Services	**13,218**
Technical Services Administration and Interjurisdictional Services	1,030
Infrastructure Management - Engineering and Dam Safety	8,693
Hydrology and Groundwater Services	3,495
Environmental and Municipal Management	**9,198**
Drinking Water and Wastewater Management	5,936
Water Quality Services	3,262
Interest	1,223
Depreciation	9,297
Total Expenses	**55,047**
Deficit for the year	**(10,954)**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Water Security Agency Budgeted Revenue for 2017-18



Water Security Agency Budgeted Expenses for 2017-18



For More Information

Please visit the Agency's website at http://www.wsask.ca